

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /012 W
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P R 291727Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHC PRIORITY 0203
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, APER
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF RSO-GUATEMALA

1. REFERENCING EARLIER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN RSS AND MR. ST. MARS, ASST DIR, A/SY, RSS ELLIS VISITED GUATEMALA SEPT 24-27, 1975 TO REVIEW SECURITY IN EFFECT AT MISSION, TO OBTAIN ASSESSMENT PRESENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE THREATS TO THE MISSION, TO ASCERTAIN PERFORMANCE LEVEL OF RSO LOPEZ DURING HIS TDY ASSIGNMENT, ETC. IN ORDER DETERMINE ADVISABILITY NOMINATING LOPEZ OR OTHER RSO TO FILL RSO-GUATEMALA VACANCY.

2. ON BASIS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS NUMEROUS MISSION OFFICIALS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, RSS STRONGLY RECOMMENDS A/SY INITIATE WHATEVER ACTION REQUIRED TO HAVE GERALD J. LOPEZ, FSR-07, CURRENTLY TDY TO THE RSO POSITION IN GUATEMALA, ASSIGNED TO THAT POSITION. REVIEW, OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS INDICATE LOPEZ HAS HANDLED ALL RSO RESPONSIBILITIES IN COMPETENT AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER SINCE ARRIVAL IN MID-JULY 1975. NOT REPEAT NOT ONE ADVERSE COMMENT RE PERFORMANCE OR PERSONAL CONDUCT RECEIVED. ON CONTRARY, ALL COMMENTS FAVORABLE ALONG WITH VIEWS HE CAN HANDLE RSO DUTIES AND THAT HE SHOULD BE GIVEN ASSIGNMENT.

3. AFTER DECISION TO RECOMMEND REACHED BY RSS, DISCUSSION HELD WITH LOPEZ WHO STATED WOULD HAPPILY ACCEPT RSO GUATEMALA ASSIGNMENT IF OFFERED. ALSO INDICATED THAT IF ASSIGNMENT CONFIRMED, WOULD NEED APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS AWAY FROM POST TO CLEAR UP
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PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING CLOSING OF APARTMENT;

PACKING UP, TAKIN ONE WEEK'S NAVAL EXPLOSIVES COURSE, IF AVAILABLE; ONE WEEK'S ANNUAL LEAVE AND ONE WEEK TO RETURN TO POST VIA POV.

4. CONSIDERING CURRENT AND PROPOSED SECURITY PROJECTS, EXTERNAL THREATS, ETC., BELIEVE TIMING FOR LOPEZ DEPARTURE AND RETURN TO POST SHOULD BE DURING PERIOD NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 15.

5. AMBASSADOR MELOY CONCURS IN ABOVE RSS RECOMMENDATIONS RE ASSIGNMENT OF LOPEZ BUT PROPOSES AND DESIRES ANOTHER RSO BE PROVIDED TO FILL IN DURING LOPEZ' ABSENCE. TO BE ACCOMMODATING, AMBASSADOR WILLING TO ACCEPT 7-10 DAYS GAP, BUT STATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT COVERAGE PREFERABLE.

6. AFTER CONSULTATION IN MEXICO WITH RSOS ROCHE AND JONES, RSS RECOMMENDS THAT RSO JONES WHO IS S-2PLUS AND R-2PLUS IN SPANISH BE DESIGNATED AS TDY RSO TO COVER PERIOD OF LOPEZ'S ABSENCE. ALTERNATIVELY, CAPABLE AND RESPONSIBLE RSO NOMINATED BY A/SY TO COVER GAP ACCEPTABLE.
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